

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated November 3, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,253,239 to Shklar et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested in view of at least the following.

As discussed further below, generally, Shklar discusses formatting and displaying data, and does not disclose or suggest, among other things, virtualization of external data as native data in a host operating environment, and use of the external data in the host operating environment.

Shklar et al. discusses a system for allowing formatting and display of information from different, and differently formatted, sources. Particularly, in some embodiments, Shklar et al. provides real-time generation of enhanced or customized format presentation of stored data from different sources, and a graphical interface to allow display of the stored data.

Shklar et al. further discusses the use of software based agents, including agents to keep track of information, such as information retrieved from a remote server, that may be rapidly or constantly changing, so that such changes can be detected and handled appropriately. In this regard, Shklar et al. discusses the example of stored information including a URL to a remote server, which URL is used to obtain potentially dynamic or constantly changing information, such as stock prices, market data, etc. *See e.g.*, Shklar et al., Col. 5, lines 19-42.

As such, Shklar et al. does not disclose or suggest, among other things, virtualizing external data as virtual native data and allowing use of the external data through a host operating

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environment. As indicated in the “Background” section of the applicant’s application as filed, at Page 2, lines 10-19, among other places, “native” data can be accessed and manipulated in a host operating environment.

For at least the above reasons, Shklar et al. does not disclose or suggest, as set forth in pending claims 1, 5, and 15, a method for virtualizing external data as virtual native data, including determining an external data set or table to be virtualized as a plurality of virtual native documents, the virtual native documents being native to a host operating environment, and allowing use of the external data through the host operating environment.

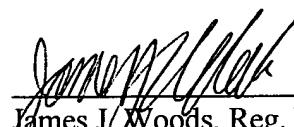
For at least the above reasons, claims 1, 5, and 15 are patentable over the cited references. Claims 2-4, 6-15, and 16, which depend, either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 5, and 15, are also patentable over the cited references. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims.

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For all of the above reasons, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the applicant's undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

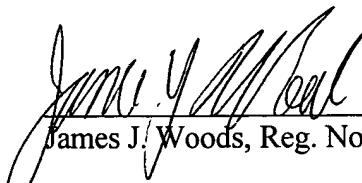
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/3/05

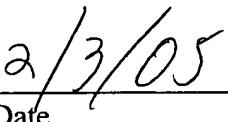


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